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**\*DOI Waiver Letter In ERU File\***

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

Pursuant to our discussion today the Department of the Interior proposes that the Central Intelligence Agency arrange to prepare gazetteers of foreign geographic names itself rather than continue to transfer funds to the Office of Geography of this Department for this work. Further, the Central Intelligence Agency would assume the very limited responsibility of furnishing staff assistance to the foreign subcommittee of the Board on Geographic Names.

Existing arrangements for preparation of gazetteers of foreign names have been found to be unsatisfactory to the Department. The preparation of these gazetteers is unrelated to Interior's natural resources programs. This has made it impossible to obtain appropriations, not only for this work but also for domestic geographic name work in which we do have a deep interest. It has also created problems of internal organization and supervision, since the group engaged in this foreign work cannot logically be fitted into our Departmental structure.

Present arrangements with respect to the Interdepartmental Board on Geographic Names would remain unchanged. The Board has been found to be a useful device in carrying out the geographic names standardization program. We propose that as of the beginning of fiscal year 1957 the Central Intelligence Agency begin to do its own foreign gazetteer work and like work for its client agencies in the Department of Defense.

The Central Intelligence Agency would appoint an executive director, who would be responsible for directing its foreign gazetteer work and in addition he would provide the Board with whatever staff assistance its Subcommittee on Foreign Names needs in connection with foreign names decisions. Likewise, the Department of the Interior would appoint an executive director for domestic names standardization work who would be an official of our Geological Survey, and who would provide the Board's Subcommittee on Domestic

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ANNEX B

OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1956

My dear Mr. Dulles:

Upon my return to the office yesterday I reflected upon our interesting conversation with reference to a proper home for the Division of Geography. I can well understand your problem of finding appropriate space and facilities for the Division, and in that connection I have discussed with my associates here the possibility of assisting you by permitting the Division to stay in the building here until you can make the necessary arrangements in your own buildings.

I am pleased to report that we will be glad to have the Division of Geography remain here for a reasonable period while you solve this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Felix E. Wormser  
Assistant Secretary

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Names with whatever staff assistance that Subcommittee needs. He also would provide the very limited facilities needed for the Board as a whole as distinguished from its subcommittee.

Under existing legislation (61 Stat. 486) the Board, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, has the duty of formulating principles, policies and procedures to be followed for domestic and foreign names, and for deciding the standard names and their orthography for official use. The Secretary has the duty of providing assistance to the Board and promulgating the name decisions of the Board.

As to the promulgation of Board decisions there is little reason why the Secretary of the Interior should retain such a responsibility with respect to foreign names. The same applies to approving principles, policies and procedures formulated by the Board with respect to foreign geographic names. This Department does not have any special interest with this aspect of geographic name work. Accordingly, it is suggested that the Central Intelligence Agency arrange to produce whatever gazetteers of foreign names that it and its clients need, and that it render staff assistance to the Board's Subcommittee on Foreign Names.

If you agree with the foregoing proposal, effect can be given to such agreement by your signing and returning this letter to me. It is understood, of course, that certain administrative arrangements would have to be made, particularly with respect to personnel to be transferred to your Agency from the Office of Geography. Administrative Assistant Secretary Beasley of the Department would cooperate with members of your staff on completing these arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

I concur:

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Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Hon. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

Existing Situation Respecting Foreign Name Work of Office of Geography

- Legislation: 61 Stat. 456 (1947) established Board on Geographic Names and directed the Secretary, conjointly with the Board, to work for uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography.
- The Board: Representatives of the following Departments: State, Air Force, Navy, Army, Post Office, Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior; also, Central Intelligence Agency, Library of Congress, and Government Printing Office.
- Functions:
- (a) The Board. Subject to the approval of the Secretary, the Board on Geographic Names shall formulate principles policy and procedures to be followed for domestic and foreign names and their orthography for official use.
  - (b) The Secretary. He shall provide for such researches and staff as the Board needs to perform its functions; keep necessary records, provide physical facilities for the Board; he shall promulgate the name decisions of the Board.
- Funds:
- (a) For domestic name work. None since fiscal year 1951. (See Table A)
  - (b) For foreign name work. (See Table B.)
- Staff: Approximately 80 persons, virtually all of whom are engaged in preparing gazetteers of foreign geographic names for the CIA and its client agencies.
- Activities:
- (a) Domestic name work. Decisions on comparatively few disputed name cases. No appropriation. Inability to obtain any appropriations for Office of Geography negates provisions of the law directing standardization of domestic names. Domestic map making agencies conduct geographic name function themselves as an incident to map making, submitting only names known to be in dispute for adjudication. New quadrangle maps are published each year containing thousands of names without benefit of consideration by the Board on Geographic Names or of the Office.

(b) Foreign Name Work. Consists largely of compiling gazetteers (lists of names in alphabetic order with longitude and latitude) for whole countries, rendered into the Roman alphabet, published in book form. Disputes as to proper names are rare. Gazetteers are used for preparing foreign maps by CIA and its client agencies. Thousands of geographic names appear in a single gazetteer.

Line of  
Demarcation

There is a very sharp line between domestic and foreign names. The Board is organized as follows:

Executive	Subcommittee
Domestic	Subcommittee
Foreign	Subcommittee

Operating procedures and file facilities are separate. The entire staff are engaged primarily in different work. Library and staff. Source of funds are of approximately 80 persons foreign name work.

TABLE A

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHY - HISTORY OF APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Department Estimate</u>	<u>Budget Bureau Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
			\$12,956
1947	\$247,700	\$82,000	12,956
1948	94,500	30,000	13,266
1949	456,000	90,000	14,400
1950	402,500	14,400	2,500*
1951	216,622	91,400	--
1952	595,000	--	--
1953	--	--	--
1954	--	--	--
1955	--	--	--
1956	509,000	--	--

\* Continuing authority voted pending Congressional action on Department appropriation bill. No funds voted for Office of Geography.

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